



# Federal Register

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**Monday,  
June 12, 2006**

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**Part IV**

**Department of  
Commerce**

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**National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration**

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**Availability of Grant Funds for Fiscal  
Year 2007; Notice**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[Docket No. 030602141-6143-38; I.D. 051906D]

RIN 0648-ZB55

**Availability of Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2007**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration publishes this notice to provide the general public with a consolidated source of program and application information related to its competitive grant and cooperative agreement (CA) award offerings for fiscal year (FY) 2007. This Omnibus notice is designed to replace the multiple **Federal Register** notices that traditionally advertised the availability of NOAA's discretionary funds for its various programs. It should be noted that additional program initiatives unanticipated at the time of the publication of this notice may be announced through subsequent **Federal Register** notices. All announcements will also be available through the Grants.gov website.

In addition, this notice announces information related to a non-competitive financial assistance project to be administered by NOAA. This project will award federal financial assistance to the National Undersea Research Center at the University of Hawaii to administer competitive coral reef research grant programs for the Caribbean, Southeastern United States, Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, Hawaii and the Western Pacific.

**DATES:** Proposals must be received by the date and time indicated under each program listing in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Proposals must be submitted to the addresses listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice for each program. The FR and Full Funding Opportunity (FFO) notices may be found on the Grants.gov Web site. The URL for Grants.gov is <http://www.grants.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Please contact the person listed within this notice as the information contact under each program.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Applicants must comply with all requirements contained in the FFO announcements for each of the programs

listed in this omnibus notice. These FFOs are available at <http://www.grants.gov>.

The list of entries below describe the basic information and requirements for competitive grant/cooperative agreement programs offered by NOAA. These programs are open to any applicant who meets the eligibility criteria provided in each entry. To be considered for an award in a competitive grant/cooperative agreement program, an eligible applicant must submit a complete and responsive application to the appropriate program office. An award is made upon conclusion of the evaluation and selection process for the respective program.

**NOAA Project Competitions**

This omnibus notice describes funding opportunities for the following NOAA discretionary grant programs:

*National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service*

1. Research in Satellite Data Assimilation for Numerical Weather, Climate, and Environmental Forecast Systems.

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

1. Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside Program FY 2007

2. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education & Training (B-WET) Program

3. Community-based Habitat Restoration National and Regional Partnerships

4. Community-based Habitat Restoration Project Grants

5. Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Project Grants

6. Cooperative Research Program FY 2007

7. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program - General Coral Reef Conservation Grants

8. Implementation of Marine Protected Areas, Southern California Coast

9. John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program

10. MARFIN Fisheries Initiative Program (MARFIN) FY 2007

11. Monkfish Research Set-Aside Program

12. Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Outreach and Education Mini-grants

13. National Estuarine Research Reserves System FY 2007 Land Acquisition and Construction Competitive Program

14. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans Grant Program

15. Protected Species Cooperative Conservation

16. Restoration of Full Tidal Exchange Wetlands, Southern California Coast

*National Ocean Service*

1. California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program- Meaningful Watershed Experiences for San Francisco, Monterey, and Santa Barbara

2. Bay Watershed Education and Training-B-WET Hawaii

3. FY 2007 Climate and Weather Impacts on Society and the Environment (CWISE), FY 2007

4. Coastal Hypoxia Research Program (CHRP)

5. Reef Ecosystem Studies (CRES)

6. Cumulative Impacts of Multiple Stressors (MultiStress)

7. Information Resource Supporting the Resiliency of Coastal Areas in the US Portion of the Gulf of Mexico

8. Monitoring and Event Response for Harmful Algal Blooms (MERHAB)

9. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program - International Coral Reef Conservation Grants

10. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program - State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Grant

11. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program - State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grants

*National Weather Service*

1. Automated Flood Warning Systems (AFWS) Program

2. Collaborative Science, Technology, and Applied Research (CSTAR) Program

3. Hydrologic Research

*Oceans and Atmospheric Research*

1. Administration of NOAA's Graduate Sciences Program

2. Administration of NOAA's Undergraduate Scholarship Program

3. Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program Competitive Funding Announcement (Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation Facility)

4. Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program Competitive Funding Announcement (Treatment Technology Demonstration Projects)

5. Joint Hurricane Testbed

6. National Sea Grant College Program Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Outreach

7. NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration Announcement of Opportunity, FY 2007

8. Sea Grant - The Gulf of Mexico Oyster Industry Program (GOIP)

9. Sea Grant - Oyster Disease Research Program (ODRP)

**NOAA Fellowship, Scholarship and Internship Programs***National Ocean Service*

1. Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program; Financial Assistance for Graduate Students

2. National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRF)

*Ocean and Atmospheric Research*

1. GradFell 2008 Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship (Knauss Fellowship Program)

2. GradFell 2007 NMFS - Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Marine Resource Economics

3. Gradfell 2007 NMFS - Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Population Dynamics

**Non-Competitive Projects Announcement**

The entry below provides information for a non-competitive project administered by NOAA. To receive an award for this project, an eligible applicant must submit a complete and responsive application to the appropriate program office. An award is made upon conclusion of the evaluation and selection process for the respective project.

*Oceans and Atmospheric Research*

1. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program - Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Grants

**NOAA Mission Goals**

The mission of the agency is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. Below is a listing of the program solicitations that generally fall under one or more areas of NOAA's strategic plan, i.e., mission goals. It is imperative that potential applicants tie their proposals to one of the mission goals. Program solicitations are provided from each of the five operating units within NOAA.

*NOAA Project Competitions listed by NOAA Mission Goals*

1. Protect, restore and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** Coastal areas are among the most developed in the Nation. More than half the population lives on less than one-fifth of the land in the contiguous United States. Furthermore, employment in near shore areas is growing three times faster than population. Coastal and

marine waters support over 28 million jobs and provide a tourism destination for nearly 90 million Americans a year. The value of the ocean economy to the United States is over \$115 billion. The value added annually to the national economy by the commercial and recreational fishing industry alone is over \$48 billion. U.S. aquaculture sales total almost \$1 billion annually. With its Exclusive Economic Zone of 3.4 million square miles, the United States manages the largest marine territory of any nation in the world. Funded proposals should help achieve the following outcomes:

A. Healthy and productive coastal and marine ecosystems that benefit society; and

B. A well-informed public that acts as a steward of coastal and marine ecosystems

**Program Names:**

1. 2007 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside Program

2. Community-based Habitat Restoration Project Grants

3. Community-based Habitat Restoration National and Regional Partnerships

4. Cooperative Research Program FY 2007

5. Marfin Fisheries Initiative Program (MARFIN) FY 2007

6. Monkfish Research Set-Aside Program

7. Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Outreach and Education Mini-grants

8. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans Grant Program

9. Restoration of Full Tidal Exchange Wetlands, Southern California Coast

10. Implementation of Marine Protected Areas, Southern California Coast

11. Protected Species Cooperative Conservation

12. Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Project Grants

13. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program - General Coral Reef Conservation Grants

14. John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program

15. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education & Training (B-WET) Program

16. Coastal Hypoxia Research Program (CHRP)

17. Coral Reef Ecosystem Studies (CRES)

18. Cumulative Impacts of Multiple Stressors (MultiStress)

19. Monitoring and Event Response for Harmful Algal Blooms (MERHAB)

20. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program - State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Grant

21. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program - State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grant

22. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program - International Coral Reef Conservation Grant

23. California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program- Meaningful Watershed Experiences for San Francisco, Monterey, and Santa Barbara

24. Bay Watershed Education and Training-B-WET Hawaii

25. Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program Competitive Funding Announcement (Treatment Technology Demonstration Projects)

26. National Sea Grant College Program Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Outreach

27. Grant - The Gulf of Mexico Oyster Industry Program (GOIP)

28. Sea Grant - Oyster Disease Research Program (ODRP)

29. NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration Announcement of Opportunity, FY 2007

30. National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRF)

31. GradFell 2008 Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship (Knauss Fellowship Program)

32. GradFell 2007 NMFS - Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Marine Resource Economics

33. Gradfell 2007 NMFS - Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Population Dynamics

34. National Estuarine Research Reserves System FY 2007 Land Acquisition and Construction Competitive Program

2. Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** Climate shapes the environment, natural resources, economies, and social systems that people depend upon worldwide. While humanity has learned to contend with some aspects of climate's natural variability, major climatic events, combined with the stresses of population growth, economic growth, public health concerns, and land-use practices, can impose serious consequences on society. The 1997-98 El Nino, for example, had a \$25 billion impact on the U.S. economy - property losses were \$2.6 billion and crop losses approached \$2 billion. Long-term drought leads to increased and competing demands for fresh water with related effects on terrestrial and marine ecosystems, agricultural productivity, and even the spread of infectious diseases. Decisions about mitigating

climate change also can alter economic and social structures on a global scale. We can deliver reliable climate information in useful ways to help minimize risks and maximize opportunities for decisions in agriculture, public policy, natural resources, water and energy use, and public health. We continue to move toward developing a seamless suite of weather and climate products. The Climate Goal addresses predictions on time scales of up to decades or longer.

Funded proposals should help achieve the following outcomes:

- A. A predictive understanding of the global climate system on time scales of weeks to decades with quantified uncertainties sufficient for making informed and reasoned decisions; and
- B. Climate-sensitive sectors and the climate-literate public effectively incorporating NOAA's climate products into their plans and decisions.

Program Names:

- 1. FY 2007 Climate and Weather Impacts on Society and the Environment (CWISE)
- 3. Serve society's needs for weather and water information.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** Floods, droughts, hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, wildfires, and other severe weather events cause \$11 billion in damages each year in the United States. Weather is directly linked to public health and safety, and nearly one-third of the U.S. economy (about \$3 trillion) is sensitive to weather and climate. With so much at stake, NOAA's role in understanding, observing, forecasting, and warning of environmental events is expanding. With our partners, we seek to provide decision makers with key observations, analyses, predictions, and warnings for a range of weather and water conditions, including those related to water supply, air quality, space weather, and wildfires. Businesses, governments, and non-governmental organizations are getting more sophisticated about how to use this weather and water information to improve operational efficiencies, to manage environmental resources, and to create a better quality of life. On average, hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and other severe weather events cause \$11 billion in damages per year. Weather, including space weather, is directly linked to public safety and about one-third of the U.S. economy (about \$3 trillion) is weather sensitive. With so much at stake, NOAA's role in observing, forecasting, and warning of environmental events is expanding, while economic sectors and its public are becoming increasingly sophisticated

at using NOAA's weather, air quality, and water information to improve their operational efficiencies and their management of environmental resources, and quality of life.

Funded proposals should help achieve the following outcomes:

- A. Reduced loss of life, injury, and damage to the economy;
- B. Better, quicker, and more valuable weather and water information to support improved decisions; and
- C. Increased customer satisfaction with weather and water information and services.

Program Names:

- 1. FY2007 Information Resource Supporting the Resiliency of Coastal Areas in the US Portion of the Gulf of Mexico
- 2. Automated Flood Warning Systems (AFWS) Program
- 3. Collaborative Science, Technology, and Applied Research (CSTAR) Program
- 4. Hydrologic Research
- 5. Joint Hurricane Testbed
- 4. Support the Nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** Safe and efficient transportation systems are crucial to the U.S. economy. The U.S. marine transportation system ships over 95 percent of the tonnage and more than 20 percent by value of foreign trade through U.S. ports, including 48 percent of the oil needed to meet America's energy demands. At least \$4 billion is lost annually due to economic inefficiencies resulting from weather-related air-traffic delays. Improved surface weather forecasts and specific user warnings would reduce the 7,000 weather related fatalities and 800,000 injuries that occur annually from crashes on roads and highways. The injuries, loss of life, and property damage from weather-related crashes cost an average of \$42 billion annually.

We provide information, services, and products for transportation safety and for increased commerce on roads, rails, and waterways. We will improve the accuracy of our information for marine, aviation, and surface weather forecasts, the availability of accurate and advanced electronic navigational charts, and the delivery of real-time oceanographic information. We seek to provide consistent, accurate, and timely positioning information that is critical for air, sea, and surface transportation. We will respond to hazardous material spills and provide search and rescue routinely to save lives and money and to protect the coastal environment. We will work with port and coastal communities and with Federal and state

partners to ensure that port operations and development proceed efficiently and in an environmentally sound manner. We will work with the Federal Aviation Administration and the private sector to reduce the negative impacts of weather on aviation without compromising safety. Because of increased interest by the public and private sectors, we also will expand weather information for marine and surface transportation to enhance safety and efficiency.

Funded proposals should help achieve the following outcomes:

- A. Safe, secure, efficient, and seamless movement of goods and people in the U.S. transportation system; and
- B. Environmentally sound development and use of the U.S. transportation system.

Program Names:

- 1. Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program Competitive Funding Announcement (Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation Facility)
- 2. Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program Competitive Funding Announcement (Treatment Technology Demonstration Projects)
- 5. Provide critical support for NOAA's mission

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** Strong, effective, and efficient support activities are necessary for us to achieve our Mission Goals. Our facilities, ships, aircraft, environmental satellites, data-processing systems, computing and communication systems, and our approach to management provide the foundation of support for all of our programs. This critical foundation must adapt to evolving mission needs and, therefore, is an integral part of our strategic planning. It also must support U.S. homeland security by maintaining continuity of operations and by providing NOAA services, such as civil alert relays through NOAA Weather Radio and air dispersion forecasts, in response to national emergencies.

NOAA ships, aircraft, and environmental satellites are the backbone of the global Earth observing system and provide many critical mission support services. To keep this capability strong and current with our Mission Goals, we will ensure that NOAA has adequate access to safe and efficient ships and aircraft through the use of both NOAA platforms and those of other agency, academic, and commercial partners. We will work with academia and partners in the public and private sectors to ensure that future satellite systems are designed,

developed, and operated with the latest technology.

Leadership development and program support are essential for achieving our Mission Goals. We must also commit to organizational excellence through management and leadership across a "corporate" NOAA. We must continue our commitment to valuing NOAA's diverse workforce, including effective workforce planning strategies designed to attract, retain and develop competencies at all levels of our workforce. Through the use of business process reengineering, we will strive for state-of-the-art, value-added financial and administrative processes. NOAA will ensure state-of-the-art and secure information technology and systems. By developing long-range, comprehensive facility planning processes NOAA will be able to ensure right-sized, cost-effective, and safe facilities.

Funded proposals should help achieve the following outcomes:

A. A dynamic workforce with competencies that support NOAA's mission today and in the future.

Program Names:

1. Administration of NOAA's Graduate Sciences Program
2. Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program; Financial Assistance for Graduate Students
3. Gradfell 2007 NMFS - Sea Grants Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Population Dynamics

Non-Competitive Projects Announcement

1. Protect, restore and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management. See SUMMARY DESCRIPTION above.

1. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program - Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Grants

#### Electronic Access

The full funding announcement for each program is available via the Grants.gov Web site: <http://www.grants.gov>. These announcements will also be available by contacting the program official identified below. You will be able to access, download and submit electronic grant applications for NOAA Programs in this announcement at <http://www.grants.gov>. The closing dates will be the same as for the paper submissions noted in this announcement. NOAA strongly recommends that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov. Getting started with Grants.gov is easy! Go to <http://www.grants.gov>. There are two key

features on the site: Find Grant Opportunities and Apply for Grants. Everything else on the site is designed to support these two features and your use of them. While you can begin searching for grant opportunities for which you would like to apply immediately, it is recommended that you complete the remaining Get Started steps sooner rather than later, so that when you find an opportunity for which you would like to apply, you are ready to go.

#### *Get Started Step 1 Find Grant Opportunity for Which You Would Like to Apply*

Start your search for Federal government-wide grant opportunities and register to receive automatic email notifications of new grant opportunities or any modifications to grant opportunities as they are posted to the site by clicking the Find Grant Opportunities tab at the top of the page.

#### *Get Started Step 2 Register with Central Contractor Registry (CCR)*

Your organization will also need to be registered with Central Contractor Registry. You can register with them online. This will take about 30 minutes. You should receive your CCR registration within 3 business days. Important: You must have a DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet before you register with CCR. Many organizations already have a DUNS number. To determine if your organization already has a DUNS number or to obtain a DUNS number, contact Dun & Bradstreet at 1-866-705-5711. This will take about 10 minutes and is free of charge. Be sure to complete the Marketing Partner ID (MPIN) and Electronic Business Primary Point of Contact fields during the CCR registration process. These are mandatory fields that are required when submitting grant applications through Grants.gov.

#### *Get Started Step 3 Register with the Credential Provider*

You must register with a Credential Provider to receive a username and password. This will be required to securely submit your grant application.

#### *Get Started Step 4 Register with Grants.gov*

The final step in the Get Started process is to register with Grants.gov. This will be required to submit grant applications on behalf of your organization. After you have completed the registration process, you will receive email notification confirming that you

are able to submit applications through Grants.gov.

#### *Get Started Step 5 Log on to Grants.gov*

After you have registered with Grants.gov, you can log on to Grants.gov to verify if you have registered successfully, to check application status, and to update information in your applicant profile, such as your name, telephone number, email address, and title. In the future, you will have the ability to determine if you are authorized to submit applications through Grants.gov on behalf of your organization.

#### *Electronic Application File Format and Naming Conventions*

After the initial grant application package has been submitted to NOAA (e.g., via Grants.gov), requests for additional or modified forms may be requested by NOAA. Applicants should resubmit forms in Portable Document File Format (PDF) and follow the following file naming convention to name resubmitted forms. For example: 98042\_SF-424\_mmddyy\_v2.pdf.  
(1) 98042 = Proposal # (provided to applicant by Grants.gov & NOAA)  
(2) SF-424 = Form Number  
(3) mmddyy = Date  
(4) v2 = Version Number

To learn how to convert documents to PDF go to: <http://www.grants.gov/assets/PDFConversion.pdf>.

#### **Evaluation Criteria and Selection Procedures**

NOAA standardized the evaluation and selection process for its competitive assistance programs. All proposals submitted in response to this notice shall be evaluated and selected in accordance with the following procedures. There are two sets of evaluation criteria and selection procedures, one for project proposals, and the other for fellowship, scholarship, and internship programs. These evaluation criteria and selection procedures apply to all of the programs included below.

#### *Proposal Review and Selection Process for Projects*

Some programs may include a pre-application process which provides an initial review and feedback to the applicants that have responded to a call for letters of intent or pre-proposals; however, not all programs will include such a process. If a pre-application process is used by a program, it shall be described in the Summary Description and the deadline shall be provided in the Application Deadline section. Upon receipt of a full application by NOAA,

an initial administrative review is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application. A merit review is conducted to individually evaluate, score, and rank applications using the evaluation criteria. A second merit review may be conducted on the applicants that meet the program's threshold (based on scores from the first merit review) to make selections using the selection factors provided below. Merit review is conducted by mail reviewers and/or peer panel reviewers. Each reviewer will individually evaluate and rank proposals using the evaluation criteria provided below. No consensus advice shall be provided by either merit review group if there are any non-Federal members. A minimum of three merit reviewers per proposal is required. The merit reviewer's ratings are used to produce a rank order of the proposals. The NOAA Program Officer may review the ranking of the proposals and make recommendations to the Selecting Official based on the mail and/or panel review(s) and selection factors listed below. The Selecting Official selects proposals after considering the mail and/or peer panel review(s) and recommendations of the Program Officer. In making the final selections, the Selecting Official will award in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors below. The Program Officer and/or Selecting Official may negotiate the funding level of the proposal. The Selecting Official makes final recommendations for award to the Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds.

#### Evaluation Criteria for Projects

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the program goals: This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities.
2. Technical/scientific merit: This assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives.
3. Overall qualifications of applicants: This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project.
4. Project costs: The Budget is evaluated to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame.

5. Outreach and education: NOAA assesses whether this project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources.

#### Selection Factors for Projects

The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order to the Selecting Official for final funding recommendations. A program officer may first make recommendations to the Selecting Official applying the selection factors below. The Selecting Official shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding.
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
  - a. Geographically
  - b. By type of institutions
  - c. By type of partners
  - d. By research areas
  - e. By project types
3. Whether this project duplicates other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other federal agencies.
4. Program priorities and policy factors.
5. Applicant's prior award performance.
6. Partnerships and/or Participation of targeted groups.
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.

#### *Proposal Review and Selection Process for NOAA Fellowship, Scholarship and Internship Programs*

Some programs may include a pre-application process which provides an initial review and feedback to the applicants that have responded to a call for letters of intent or pre-proposals; however, not all programs will include such a process. If a pre-application process is used by a program, it shall be described in the Summary Description and the deadline shall be provided in the Application Deadline section. An initial administrative review of full applications is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of applications. A merit review is conducted to individually evaluate, score, and rank applications using the evaluation criteria. A second merit review may be conducted on the applicants that meet the program's threshold (based on scores from the first merit review) to make selections using the selection factors provided below.

The Program Officer may conduct a review of the rank order and make recommendations to the Selecting Official based on the panel ratings and the selection factors listed below. The Selecting Official considers merit reviews and recommendations. The Selecting Official will award in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors below. The Selecting Official makes final recommendations for award to the Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds.

#### Evaluation Criteria for Fellowship/Scholarships/Internships

1. Academic record and statement of career goals and objectives of student
2. Quality of project and applicability to program priorities
3. Recommendations and/or endorsements of student
4. Additional relevant experience related to diversity of education; extra-curricular activities; honors and awards; interpersonal, written, and oral communications skills
5. Financial need of student

#### Selection Factors for Fellowship/Scholarships/Internships

1. Balance/Distribution of funds:
  - a. Across academic disciplines
  - b. By types of institutions
  - c. Geographically
2. Availability of funds
3. Program-specific objectives
4. Degree in scientific area and type of degree sought

#### NOAA Project Competitions

##### *National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service*

1. Research in Satellite Data Assimilation for Numerical Weather, Climate, and Environmental Forecast Systems.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** The National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), Office of Research and Applications (ORA) and the Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation (JCSDA) announces the availability of Federal assistance for research in the area of Satellite Data Assimilation in Numerical Weather, Climate, and Environmental Forecast Systems. The goal of the JCSDA is to accelerate the use of observations from earth-orbiting satellites in operational numerical prediction models for the purpose of improving weather, ocean mesoscale, and other environmental forecasts, improving seasonal to interannual climate forecasts, and increasing the physical accuracy of

### 3. Community-based Habitat Restoration National and Regional Partnerships

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** NMFS is inviting the public to submit multi-year proposals for establishing innovative habitat restoration partnerships at the national or regional level for up to 3 years to further community-based habitat restoration that will benefit living marine resources, including anadromous fish, under the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP). Proposals for partnerships funded through the CRP will involve joint selection and co-funding of multiple community-based habitat restoration projects as sub-awards made through the partner organization. Proposals selected for funding through this solicitation will be implemented through a cooperative agreement. The program priorities for this opportunity support NOAA's mission support goal of: Ecosystems - protect, restore, and manage use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management.

**FUNDING AVAILABILITY:** Funding of up to \$10 million is expected to be available for establishing multi-year partnerships in FY 2007; annual funding is anticipated to maintain successful partnerships for up to 3 years duration. The NOAA Restoration Center (RC) anticipates that typical partnership awards will range from \$200,000 to \$600,000 per year, funded annually.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The Secretary of Commerce is authorized under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661, as amended by the Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970, to provide grants or cooperative agreements for fisheries habitat restoration.

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBER:** 11.463 Habitat Conservation.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Applications for partnership funding under the CRP must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EDT on September 25, 2006 if submitted via Grants.gov, or if mailed, postmarked by September 25, 2006.

**ADDRESS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS:** Applicants should apply through <http://www.grants.gov>. If unable to apply through grants.gov, send paper applications to Christopher D. Doley, Chief, NOAA Restoration Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway (F/HC3), Rm. 14701, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282; ATTN: CRP Partnership Applications.

**INFORMATION CONTACT(S):** Melanie Gange or Robin Bruckner at (301)713-0174, or by fax at (301) 713-0184, or by e-mail at

*Melanie.Gange@noaa.gov* or *Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov*.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, hospitals, other non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments whose projects have the potential to benefit NOAA trust resources. Applications from federal agencies will not be considered.

**COST SHARING REQUIREMENTS:** 1:1 match non-Federal match is encouraged, but applicants with less than 1:1 match will not be disqualified.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW:** Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

### 4. Cooperative Research Program (CRP) FY 2007

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** The NMFS is inviting the public to submit research and development projects that seek to increase and improve the working relationship between researchers from the NMFS, state fishery agencies, universities, and fishermen. The program is a means of involving commercial and recreational fishermen in the collection of fundamental fisheries information. Collection efforts support the development and evaluation of management and regulatory options. Projects accepted for funding will need to be completed within 24 months. The program priorities for this opportunity support NOAA's mission support goal of: Ecosystems - Protect, Restore, and manage Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources through Ecosystem-Based Management.

**FUNDING AVAILABILITY:** Approximately \$2.0 million may be available in fiscal year 2007 for projects. The NMFS Southeast Regional Office estimates awarding eight awards that will range from \$25,000 to \$400,000. The average award is \$150,000.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 15 U.S.C. 713c-3(d).

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBER:** 11.454 Unallied Management Projects.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** We must receive your application by 5 p.m. eastern daylight time on August 11, 2006. Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding.

**ADDRESS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS:** Applications should be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>. If an applicant does not have Internet access, hard copies should be sent to the National Marine Fisheries

Service, State/Federal Liaison Branch, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

**INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Sadler, State/Federal Liaison Branch at (727) 824-5324.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Eligible applicants include Institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments and individuals. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible. Foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, and international organizations are excluded for purposes of this solicitation since the objective of the CRP is to optimize research and development benefits from U.S. marine fishery resources.

**OTHER INFORMATION:** Applicants who are not a commercial or recreational fisherman must have commercial or recreational fisherman participating in their project. There must be a written agreement with a fisherman describing the involvement in the project activity.

All applicants must include a written agreement with a person employed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), who will act as a partner in the proposed research project. The NMFS partner will assist the applicant to develop a design (statistical or analytical) for the project to assure that the outcome will provide suitable, scientific data and results to support needed fisheries management information.

**COST SHARING REQUIREMENTS:** Cost sharing is not required.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW:** Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

### 5. Marfin Fisheries Initiative Program (MARFIN) FY 2007

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** The NMFS is inviting the public to submit research and development projects that will optimize the use of fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and off the South Atlantic states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida involving the U.S. fishing industry (recreational and commercial), including fishery biology, resource assessment, socioeconomic assessment, management and conservation, selected harvesting methods, and fish handling and processing. Proposals may be selected for funding for up to three years through a cooperative agreement. The program priorities for this opportunity support NOAA's mission support goal of: Ecosystems - Protect, Restore, and



Manage Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources through Ecosystem-Based Management.

**FUNDING AVAILABILITY:**

Approximately \$2.4 million may be available in fiscal year (FY) 2007 for projects. This amount includes possible in-house projects. The NMFS Southeast Regional Office estimates awarding ten projects that will range from \$35,000 to \$300,000. The average award is \$100,000.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 15 U.S.C. 713c-3(d).

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBER:** 11.433 Marine Fisheries Initiative.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** We must receive your application by close of business (5 p.m. eastern daylight time) on July 12, 2006. Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding.

**ADDRESS FOR SUBMITTING**

**PROPOSALS:** Applications should be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>. If an applicant does not have Internet access, hard copies should be sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service, State/Federal Liaison Branch, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

**INFORMATION CONTACT:** Scot Plank, State/Federal Liaison Branch at (727) 824-5324.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Eligible applicants include Institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible. Foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, and international organizations are excluded for purposes of this solicitation since the objective of the MARFIN program is to optimize research and development benefits from U.S. marine fishery resources.

**COST SHARING REQUIREMENTS:** Cost sharing is not required.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW:** Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

**6. Monkfish Research Set-Aside Program**

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces that the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) have set aside 500 monkfish days-at-sea (DAS) to be used for research endeavors under a research set-aside (RSA) program. NMFS is soliciting proposals to utilize the DAS for research activities

concerning the monkfish fishery for fishing year 2007 (May 1, 2007–April 30, 2008). Through the allocation of research DAS, the Monkfish RSA Program provides a mechanism to reduce the cost for vessel owners to participate in cooperative monkfish research. The intent of this RSA program is for fishing vessels to utilize these research DAS to conduct monkfish related research, rather than their allocated monkfish DAS, thereby eliminating any cost to the vessel associated with using a monkfish DAS. The program priorities for this opportunity support NOAA's mission support goal of: Ecosystems - Protect, Restore, and Manage Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources through Ecosystem-Based Management.

**FUNDING AVAILABILITY:** No Federal funds are provided for research under this notification. Rather, projects funded under the Monkfish RSA Program would be provided with additional opportunity to harvest monkfish, and the catch sold to generate income to offset research costs. The Federal Government (i.e., NMFS) may issue an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP), if needed, to provide special fishing privileges in response to research proposals selected under this program. For example, vessels participating in an approved research project may be authorized by the Northeast Regional Administrator, NMFS, to harvest monkfish in excess of established possession limits. Two awards were issued under the 2006 Monkfish RSA Program, and these projects are expected to commence in May 2006. Therefore, information concerning the income generated from those awards is not yet available.

Funds generated from landings harvested and sold under the Monkfish RSA Program shall be used to cover the cost of research activities, including vessel costs. For example, the funds may be used to pay for gear modifications, monitoring equipment, the salaries of research personnel, or vessel operation costs. The Federal Government shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the conduct of the project. Specifically, the Federal Government is not liable for any costs incurred by the researcher or vessel owner should the sale of catch not fully reimburse the researcher or vessel owner for his/her expenses.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Issuing grants is consistent with sections 303(b)(11), 402(e), and 404(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1853(b)(11), 16 U.S.C. 1881a(e), and 16 U.S.C. 1881(c), respectively.

The ability to set aside monkfish DAS for research purposes was established in the final rule implementing Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (70 FR 21927, April 28, 2005), and codified in the regulations at 50 CFR 648.92(c).

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBER:** In the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, the program number is 11.454, and the program name is Unallied Management Projects.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

Applications must be received on or before 5 p.m. eastern daylight time on August 11, 2006.

**ADDRESS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS:** Proposals must be submitted electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>, or as hard copy (by postal mail, commercial delivery service, or hand delivery) to NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Delays may be experienced when registering with Grants On-line near the end of a solicitation period. Therefore, NOAA strongly recommends that applicants do not wait until the deadline date to begin the application process through <http://www.grants.gov>. Electronic or hard copies received after the deadline will not be considered, and hard copy applications will be returned to the sender.

**INFORMATION CONTACTS:**

Administrative questions: Allison Ferreira, Fishery Policy Analyst, NMFS, by phone 978-281-9103, fax 978-281-9135, or e-mail at [allison.ferreira@noaa.gov](mailto:allison.ferreira@noaa.gov). Technical questions: Peter Burns, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, by phone 978-281-92144, fax 978-281-9117, or email at [peter.burns@noaa.gov](mailto:peter.burns@noaa.gov).

**ELIGIBILITY:** Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, hospitals, other non-profits, commercial organizations, individuals, state, local, and Native American tribal governments. Federal agencies and institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this notice. Additionally, employees of any Federal agency or Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) are ineligible to submit an application under this program. However, Council members who are not Federal employees may submit an application.

**COST SHARING REQUIREMENTS:**

None.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW:**

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."